



Shepherd's Field
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE
牧羊地兒童村

Heartbeat

February 2017

Happy New Year



Former Residents Score in Paralympics

When the U.S. Paralympics announced their 2016 All-American High School Athletes, all of us here at Shepherd's Field were excited to see a familiar name on the list: **Phillip Croft**. Phillip joined his Forever Family in Spokane, Washington in 2012, and became involved in wheelchair track and field, as well as wheelchair basketball. Last year he had surgery on his back, but has shown an amazing resilience to quickly come back and excel at athletics. Congratulations Phillip, we are very proud of you!



Phillip also brought another of our former kids to Paralympic Sports – **Elizabeth Floch (BeiBei)**. Phillip first introduced her to a basketball wheelchair game, and after about 30 seconds she was hooked! If you ever visited Shepherd's Field while BeiBei was there, you know what an active and competitive child she was – and she still is.

This past July she participated in a track meet in Los Angeles and broke national records in the 200-, 400-, 800- and 1500-meter races in her age group and disability class! Both Elizabeth and Phillip hope to compete in the National Paralympics one day, and we wish them all the best. We hope they give inspiration and hope to kids who may feel different or undervalued.

Friends Help to Keep Kids Healthy

Huade Eye Hospital visited Shepherd's Field Children's Village (SFCV) recently, and performed vision tests for all our school kids. A total of six children – **Francis, Luke, Amanda, Cody, Hector** and **Maggie** – were fitted with free glasses, and are all seeing better. They love their cool, new frames, as well as their clearer view of the world.

The Christian Dental Association of Beijing came out and generously conducted dental screenings for all our kids, and found 23 who needed further care. So far, five of the kids have completed treatment, with the remaining group scheduled to finish next month. Groups like Huade Eye Hospital and the Christian Dental Association change our kids' lives – **Thank You!**



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



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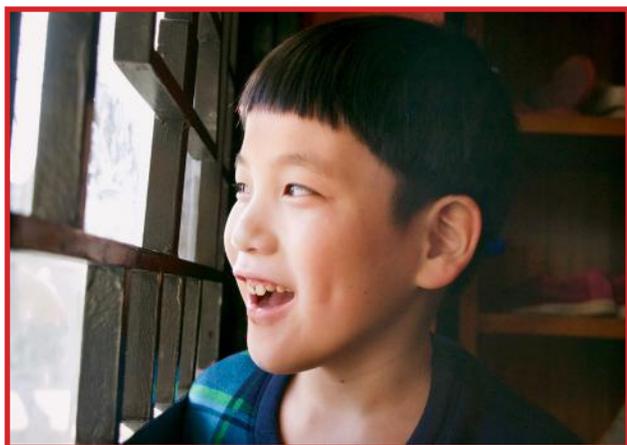
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Welcome To Shepherd's Field!

Samuel (Dang Liming) arrived here on January 9, an 8½-year-old boy with clubfeet and a cognitive delay. He had an operation at age five, and since then has made significant progress – he's now able to walk, stand alone and climb stairs unassisted. He has a pleasant personality, responds well to encouragement and kindness, and fits in very well at the House of Love.

Florence (Guo Sifeng) is an eight-year-old girl with cerebral palsy. Her leg muscles are very tight, which makes it difficult for her to move – though she can stand and walk with assistance. Shortly after her arrival, she received a wheelchair, which gave her more freedom than ever. Now she'll undergo intense physical therapy to help prevent muscle contractures, and hopefully improve her mobility. Florence is at home in Zachry House.



Society For Disabled People Meet Our Kids



The Society for Disabled People in Beijing has a program that encourages disabled adults to spend a month reaching out and exploring new opportunities. Many of them are married, have children and enjoy a variety of careers.

We're always excited when they visit, so our kids can glimpse life's options and even visualize their own futures. The Society recently came out and did crafts with the kids, had singalongs and shared

their life stories. As the group continues to visit, we hope our kids will be inspired by their positive attitudes and successes in life.





While we say “Happy New Year” to 2017, we also celebrate the Old Year (2016)! Looking back, we have many reasons to be thankful.

The biggest news of the year was getting final approval for our Vocational Center! We’ve worked for years to bring the Center to life, and we’ve already begun to use it. It’s thrilling to begin to help our older

teens by giving them the training and skills they need to become independent, mature adults.

Shepherd’s Field welcomed several new staff members in 2016, who work in a variety of areas – the greenhouse, the schoolhouse, the Vocational Center, Guest Relations, the website and social media. We’re very excited for these new team members, and look forward to growing closer every day. We also welcomed many interns this year, including a record number of summer interns. We’re grateful for their hard work and the impact they made on the kids’ lives.

Most importantly, children’s lives have been powerfully changed. We said goodbye (happily) to 19 kids, who joined their new Forever Families; 10 children received life-changing surgeries; and we welcomed 20 new additions to the Shepherd’s Field Family.



Of course, we can’t forget you, our supporters. Thank you for the support you’ve given us throughout the year, both financially and in prayer. We could not do this work without you! As we look ahead to the new year, we’re excited, expectant and hopeful to watch our partnership with you blossom into more healings, new families and changed lives.



Grady Shows His Greatness

Grady (Hou Tong) was 13 when he arrived at Shepherd’s Field, but at the age of 21 has blossomed into our resident photographer, as well as a caring, big brother to all our kids.

In early 2016 he was asked to provide photos of Shepherd’s Field kids for the Chinese edition of a children’s book called “Tell Me About Your Greatness.” Grady eagerly took on the project, and when the book was completed and shown to our kids they were amazed to see themselves on the printed page! This is a great example of what we’d like to see happen with other teens through the work of our vocational program. The Chinese edition of “Tell Me about Your Greatness” is available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).





Friends Find Forever Families



Kevin (Yang Song) received an early Christmas present when his adoptive family came to pick him up in early December, bringing our total adoptions

for 2016 to 19. Now named Tyler, he lives in California and has an older brother and sister, who are both adopted from China.



Our first adoption of 2017 came on January 7, when **John (Qin Ming)** – now Eli – met his Forever Family from Maryland, including an older sister who's very excited to have a new brother. John was with us for only four months, but he touched everyone here with his quick smile and sweet personality.

Graham Gets a Hearing Aid

One of our goals is to provide our kids with the surgeries, medical treatments, therapies and therapeutic equipment they need to succeed in life. **Graham (Xie Minfa)** needed to have his hearing tested, so with the assistance of our friends and partners at **LIH Olivia's Place** and **New Wave Sound Solutions**, several tests were performed to assess his hearing. It was later recommended that Graham be fitted with a hearing aid, and in early January he got this life-changing device.

The hearing aid began helping Graham instantly – as soon as it was turned on he became calm, more attentive and responsive to voices and noises! We're very excited for all the new possibilities of independence this brings him. Although Graham will need extensive auditory and speech therapy, he's already begun to make progress in his communication and development. We're very grateful for our partners at LIH Olivia's Place and New Wave Sound Solutions for their generosity and dedication to this project and others in the future.



Is CHINA calling YOU?

An internship just might change your life! We are taking applications for summer 2017 now! Deadline for submissions is **March 1st**. Please email our internship coordinator, Naomi Preedin with applications or any questions: naomi.preedin@chinaorphans.org



We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

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