



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

Heartbeat

July 2017



Life After Shepherd's Field

In addition to caring for the medical, educational and therapeutic needs of all the kids at Shepherd's Field Children's Village (SFCV), one of our long-term goals is to take care of and equip the older kids (11 years and up) for "life after SFCV." In China, once an orphan reaches the age of 14, they're no longer eligible for adoption. Typically, orphans who "age out" – especially orphans with special needs – are institutionalized, with little opportunity to learn life skills or get any job training.

We're passionate about changing the lives of these older orphans, and we work hard to give them hope for a real future. Currently, we have several kids who are approaching 14, and we're creating a vocational program to help give them life and job skills. We'll also provide individualized training to help them use their specific skill sets to succeed in life after SFCV – whether that means adoption or life here in China.

For example, **Xander (Guang Fujun)** is 12 years old and still looking for his Forever Family, but has already begun training for his future. Since he was diagnosed with autism, he doesn't attend regular school, but has an individualized program consisting of educational and sensory play activities that he does at home with his aiyis in a more comforting environment. In the last year, he's continued to make huge strides in several areas, including communication, behavior and sensory integration. Xander is non-verbal, but uses other means of communication, including American Sign Language and a customized picture communication system. He's also very helpful, and does chores every day that fit his abilities. He sets the table for meals, carries pots of food to and from the house, takes out the trash, assists our donations team, and helps his friends and housemates with anything else they need. Xander loves to help, and he's great at following directions. As we continue to work with him, our hope is that these new skills will help to secure his future.



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China Celebrates Children

June 1 is **Children's Day** in China, and is one of our favorite celebrations of the year. The wonderful, talented, beautiful children of Shepherd's Field welcomed more than 300 guests, staff and volunteers to watch their performances – and for the first time, more than 30,000 friends viewed it live on Facebook! Many of our partners, sponsors and neighbors celebrated online with the kids they so graciously love and support.

For two months, the children and teachers diligently prepared their performances, and rehearsals helped the children discover new talents and passions. We learned that **Maggie** loves to dance, **Luke** loves to act, and **Momo's** amazing poses are beyond all cuteness. We showcased as many talented kids as possible – from **Hector's** singing and wheelchair dancing, to **Gloria's** talents in English, and **Corey's** newfound love for acting.



Every child beamed brightly, which brought smiles and tears to the audience's eyes and faces as we heard our kids recite two poems – one in Chinese about what “family” means to them; and another one in English about what they thought “friendship” means. One of the biggest performances of the day, however, was the



African djembe drum ensemble, performed by all the Little Lambs school kids. To top the morning off, we concluded with the Shepherd's Field Fashion Show, where the children strutted across the stage. This was definitely one of the crowd favorites, as we saw even some of our smallest children in dress shirts and bow ties. *Talk about cuteness!*

In the afternoon, we held our annual Children's Day Water Party! Between the inflatable pools, dozens of water guns, and fun-loving kids who splashed or squirted everyone in sight, no one walked away dry. **Cody** – as always – sat in the pool, warding off people who came for his water; from the start, **Jason** laughed hysterically as he was repeatedly soaked by his therapists and teachers; and **Richard** ran around diving into pools, sneaking up on people and soaking them. All the children had an incredibly fun-filled day, and we loved having the opportunity to celebrate with them.





We have several children who are in need of major medical procedures soon, but our Medical Fund is running low. Can you help us cover the cost of approximately US\$25,000-\$30,000 for these surgeries and medications, even with a small gift? If so, please contact us at: info@chinaorphans.org. *Thank you!*

Our sweet little nine-month-old **Mico (He Qianpei)**, is in need of heart surgery. She suffers from congenital heart disease and the surgery she currently needs runs between US\$5,870-\$7,337 (¥40,000-50,000RMB).

Maggie (Tian Xin Xin), a long-time resident here at Shepherd's Field, suffers from complex heart disease. Before her second surgery she needs to have an evaluation and an angiogram costing US\$1,468 (¥10,000RMB).

One of our newest arrivals, **Hanna (Song Yicai)**, has a complex heart condition and will require surgery in the next year or so that will cost US\$5,870-\$7,337 (¥40,000-50,000RMB).

Adorable little **Jubilee (Li Ruxuan)**, has glaucoma. Surgery will cost US\$2,600 (¥17,700RMB), and will help preserve her vision.

Our determined, young **Wes (Ling Wudao)**, has a cataract in his left eye. The surgery that will fix this cataract will cost US\$1,030 (¥7,000RMB.)

Some of our older children – **Corey, Amanda** and **Gloria** – all use a specialized medication that helps to shrink their tumors and growths, and is very effective for them. The total cost of the medication is US\$880 (¥6,000RMB) per month.



New Therapies Bring Results

The Shepherd's Field Therapy Team has worked with **Brody (Hu Min Peng)** for several months to improve and further develop his communication skills, and he's started to learn American Sign Language (ASL) as a means of communication and speech development. In fact, he's learned more than 50 signs that help him communicate his wants, needs and decisions. Our team incorporated ASL last year, after it was recommended for several kids – including Brody – who have verbal enunciation and pronunciation impairments. To say Brody is making great progress is an understatement – his communication skills are becoming exceptional! In therapy, Brody enjoys putting together puzzles and other matching games, playing Legos, jumping on the trampoline, walking on the balance beam, and blowing and popping bubbles. We're very grateful for all the input Brody's received, and look forward to helping him become a spectacular communicator.





Mad Dog MC Does it Again!

Thanks to **Mad Dog Motorcycle Club (MC)** once again for putting on a first-class event at the Riviera Country Club, to raise support for the children of Shepherd's Field. This was the seventh year they roared in, and it was their biggest ever! Don't let their looks fool you. These guys might look rough and tough on the outside, but underneath all that leather and ink they have hearts of gold. We have nothing but love for these bikers and their compassion for China's orphans. They provided burgers, pizza, craft beers on draft, 10 live bands, games and more than 60 prizes in the annual raffle – and they raised more than US\$30,000 (¥200,000RMB)!



A huge "Thank You" goes out to Mad Dog MC, all the sponsors, and to everyone who helped put this event together. To all the musicians – you were amazing! Thanks to everyone who came out to support the children, and cheers to the Riviera Country Club – you provided a fantastic venue. Shortly after the event, our kids were excited when Mad Dog members came out to spend the day playing with them at SFCV. The kids quivered at the rumble and roar of those big bikes, but especially loved sitting on top of the big beasts.

Is China Calling You?

Is China Calling You? Are you interested in serving special-needs orphans? Here are some current staffing needs. If you'd like to volunteer or just want more info, send us an email at: naomi.preedin@chinaorphans.org.

Medical Professional – Are you looking to change children's lives? If so, then we're your place! We're currently looking for a long-term volunteer to help with our medical team for four to six months, beginning late this summer.

Office Worker(s) – We are looking for two office staff, who are preferably bilingual, to take on the following responsibilities: administrative tasks; guest relations duties; the organization of children's files and records.

Greenhouse Staff – We have an immediate need in our greenhouse and gardens, for someone to tend the flowers and plants around campus.

Teaching Staff – Are you a teacher who is looking to better the lives of our kids? We have a need for someone to join the teaching staff in our school starting in September.

Media Staff – Do you have experience in website and/or graphic design? We are searching for an individual to take over responsibility of our website and Newsletter.

For more information please visit our staff page on our website or contact us via email at:
naomi.preedin@chinaorphans.org.



We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

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