

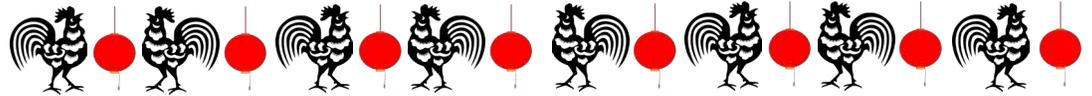


# Heartbeat

Shepherd's Field  
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

March 2017

牧羊地儿童村



## Shepherd's Field Welcomes Year of the Rooster

Chinese New Year is one of the country's most celebrated festivals, where families and loved ones come together from all over China. It was no different at Shepherd's Field this year – and was a great time for the staff and kids to celebrate together.

To kick off the seven-day holiday, the children had a dance party with the staff. It was also a good opportunity for the kids who were not in school to participate in the festivities. On the night of the dance party, the older school kids got the opportunity to have popcorn and to watch "Mulan" in Chinese on a big screen in the Outreach Center.



The local village traditional arts group, **Yangge Dui**, performed twice for our children during the holiday. First, they performed a Chinese dance celebrating the Spring Festival, and the next day a traditional Beijing Opera. Some of the kids helped their aiyis make dumplings to celebrate Chinese New Year, which is always a special treat. The entire week of Chinese New Year was full of activities for the kids, where they discovered more about their culture and the importance of the Spring Festival.

### Lantern Festival Rings in the New Year

To celebrate the Lantern Festival, the school children were able to go on a field trip to Jiutian Leisure Valley, a local indoor park in Langfang. Thanks to sponsors at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Winterset, Iowa, the kids enjoyed a change of scenery, and learned about some of the plants, flowers and fish at the park. Some of the children had never left Shepherd's Field, so it was a great opportunity for them to learn more about nature, as well as enjoy themselves on rides at the indoor amusement park.



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# Medical Treatments Change Lives

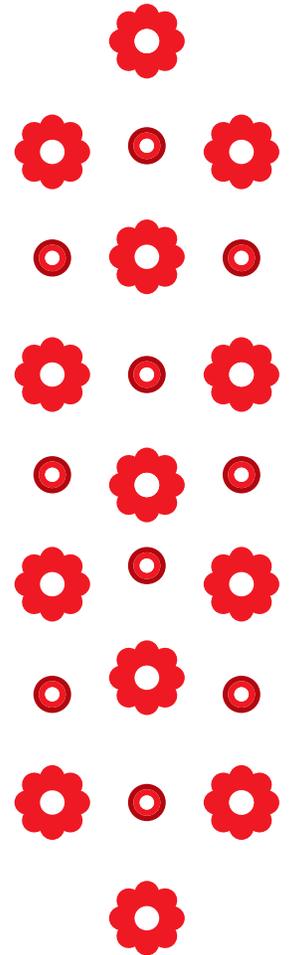


**Buddy (Lian Yizi)** is back from his hospitalization after treatment for a G.I. infection, and further outpatient management of his complex condition. Thankfully, Buddy was recently adopted, so his care is now in the hands of his new family, Justin and Amy Day.

**Shawn (Zhao Anzhi)** is now post-op after a rectal revision operation, which went well. He remains an inpatient at the hospital to ensure everything's functioning normally, and will return to Shepherd's Field soon.



**Amanda (Si Xinfang)** is undergoing testing prior to the plastic surgery procedures that should take place soon. She'll have operations to remove her lip and neck tumors.



## Buddy & Jamie Find Forever Families!



Great news! One-year-old **Buddy (Lian Yizi)** was adopted this month by Justin and Amy Day. Buddy has a complex medical issue, and his new family will provide superior medical care and the best chance for a normal life for him. He's very excited to meet his two older sisters and his big brother.



One of our former staff members, Chrissy Kelley, returned to Shepherd's Field to adopt five-year-old **Jamie (Chen Xingbo)**. Chrissy first met Jamie in 2012 when he arrived as a baby, and she immediately fell in love with him. Now she's back – creating a new Forever Family and making a little boy's wishes come true.



## Welcome to Therapy

The start of the Chinese New Year brought three new kids into our therapy program. **Charlie (Shao Tiancheng)** is 10 years old, and joined us after spending more than nine months in the surgical recovery ward at a hospital in Beijing. Charlie underwent lower leg surgery last May to correct his clubbed feet. Upon his arrival, it was noted that he had very few independent skills, and couldn't stand on his own. Our therapy team helped Charlie increase his balance, mobility, grip, upper extremity movement, Activities of Daily Living (ADL) skills and more. Charlie has a very playful personality, but is a bit timid when it comes to trying new activities. However, he's always up for the challenge regardless of the outcome.

**Samuel (Dang Liming)** joined us from a foster home in Beijing where he had lived for several years and received therapy for speech and language development, as well as gait and mobility. Samuel's treatments continue to focus on communication and language development, behavioral therapies and age-appropriate play skills. He's a very energetic boy with a fantastic personality.

**Florence (Guo Sifeng)**, is our newest arrival and addition to the program. This highly functional little girl has tons of potential for independent mobility, and our team is blessed to be able to help her reach those goals. Despite her shy personality, she's determined to work hard to increase the elasticity in her legs. She really enjoys coming to therapy!

In the several short weeks that our team has been working with these three incredible kids, we've already begun to see great improvement from each of them. In addition to working with our staff, Charlie, Samuel and Florence have all been evaluated by our partners at **LIH Olivia's Place** to ensure they receive the highest quality of treatment we can provide.



Samuel



Florence

## Kids Blossom in School

The Shepherd's Field School also recently welcomed Charlie, Florence and Samuel. They came to school and met new friends, who welcomed their arrival. Charlie is in the oldest class with Teacher Wang, where he's very well liked, and the other students take the initiative to help him. Charlie has quickly integrated into the class – he arrives every day with a big smile on his face, eager to learn.



Charlie

Florence is a very independent little girl, and though she's wheelchair bound, she still insists on doing things on her own. She loves to laugh, go to school, play with toys, puzzles and games, and loves to learn. Samuel is a very tidy, beautiful little boy. His language development is relatively slow and his limb movements are uncoordinated. His transition is taking longer than expected, but our teachers will continue with patience. We're very excited these three new children have joined us, and we expect them to blossom in our school.



## Anyone for a Spot of Tea?

A British staff member, Georgie Aitken, recently taught the kids how to make scones and traditional British tea, and the kids had a blast measuring, mixing, kneading and baking. The children were covered in flour, but they still sat down to smother their scones with strawberry jam, and even tried to stick their 'pinkies' out while they drank their tea! They joked about how British they looked, which they found hilarious. Some even said that British tea was better than Chinese tea, because it's mainly full of milk and sugar, which every child loves.

The morning was full of laughter and precious moments with the children, and we got to learn much more about each of them. For example, **Maggie** loved learning how to make tea and properly serve it; and **Richard** helped everyone clear up afterwards and even cleaned all of the dishes we used.



Charissa



Luke

## Intern Shares Her Love of Dance

Our children had the opportunity recently to attend dance classes with our intern **Martina**, who grew up experiencing the joys of dance, and now wants to share that love at Shepherd's Field. The kids have three classes a week, and enjoy dancing around – after going through a system of stretching, following the leader, and learning steps to a new dance routine each time they have class. The lessons have been good in different ways for each kid, and many have gained confidence and freedom in finding new ways of moving. The younger kids have benefited from getting some wiggles out, while working on following directions and keeping focused.

Meanwhile, the older kids have worked hard to know their routines, and now want to perform for everybody. Many of the children who were reluctant or shy during the first classes have since come out of their shells, and want to learn new routines. They really enjoy the structure, the movement and the freedom they get while dancing. The kids will continue rehearsing their newfound dancing skills, and hope to perform for all the children and staff at the next birthday party.



We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

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