



Heartbeat

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

May 2017



Mei Mei Returns!

Jayden (Mei Mei) returned to Shepherd's Field Children's Village (SFCV) on April 4, bringing joy to our hearts once again. Now 13 years old, she was adopted in 2006 by her Forever Family in the U.S. They first learned of her through our sponsorship program, financially supporting little Mei Mei while we cared for her at Shepherd's Field. During this time of sponsorship her parents developed a deep love for her and "just knew" that she was their daughter.

Jayden has grown up to be the young person we always knew her to be: strong, outgoing and very caring. She's now one of six children, and thrives among so many siblings. Her empathy and care for others is displayed at home, where she's taken on the role of older sister. She welcomed all of her brothers and sisters into their new family, and they know they can rely on her for anything. Jayden's favorite classes in school are Bible Studies and History, but she's grown to love many things, especially horses and horseback riding!



During her visit here, she even displayed her talent for the piano and played for some of our staff, who were thrilled. She loved meeting and playing with the children, who equally loved playing with her. She also made an emotional visit to House of Peace, where she grew for several years, and found her very own plaque on the Hands of Hope Wall. It was fantastic seeing Jayden back at Shepherd's Field, and learning all about her life and what she loves to do. She's always so cheerful, and has such a positive attitude – she doesn't let anything stop her! It truly warmed our hearts to hear about all her hopes for the future. *We love you, Mei Mei!*



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Masterpieces Become Hidden Treasures



What a happy Easter! The children were very excited, anticipating our annual Easter Egg Hunt, and spent the day before the chase transforming hard-boiled eggs into ovoid masterpieces. The kids loved dyeing and decorating their eggs in their favorite colors – they made picture eggs, multi-colored eggs and even sparkly eggs – and really expressed their personalities this year.

There was a rush of excitement on the morning of the hunt, as the teachers and staff hid the decorated treasures all around our campus. The children then grabbed their Easter baskets and were off – running around, looking in the trees, checking the bushes and insides of holes, searching for all the hidden eggs and candy. Following their very successful hunt, the children and staff relaxed in the sunshine and enjoyed their newly found treats.



The Big Move

Therapy has moved! After much preparation and painting last month, our **Therapy Program** packed up all its equipment and relocated to its new home on the first floor of the recently opened **Vocational Training Center**! This new therapy center is much larger than our old space in House of Promise, and allows our team to treat up to seven children at a time. The open and organized flow provides for specified work stations for disciplines such as: speech therapy, gross motor activities, stretching and more.

In addition to the primary treatment room, we now have a treatment staging room, where we can store and clean toys and mobility devices, and other therapy resources. The new center is also equipped with office space, which our staff can use for continuing education and further program development. We're very thankful for the volunteers from Beijing who came out to help us move all our therapy equipment in just one afternoon, and we're most excited about the additional children's lives we can help transform through our new Therapy Program digs.



Our Medical Fund Needs an Infusion

Our calling and goal at Shepherd's Field is to provide medical care, therapy and a good education for special-needs orphans from across China. This often means that we take on the responsibility to cover the cost of life-changing surgeries. We currently have four children who are in need of surgery, and one who has already received surgery – but we haven't yet paid the hospital for his operation. The problem is that our medical budget is seriously depleted, and we're in need of immediate financial help to meet these children's needs. *Will you help?*



Little 17-month-old **Jubilee (Li Ruxuan)** is in need of glaucoma surgery. She's a happy girl, but struggles due to her condition. In order to save her sight and improve her development, this beautiful little angel needs life-changing eye surgery, which will cost **US\$2,600**.



Sixteen-year-old **Trudy (Xiong Chunyan)** was burned in a fire as a child. She has undergone many reconstructive surgeries over the past few years on her face and hands, and now she's in need of surgery to help the scars on her face match more closely with her newly reconstructed nose. Her surgery will cost approximately **US\$1,470**.



Then there are our two adorable new babies, eight-month-old **Desmond (Xu Kangzhu)** and six-month-old **Mico (He Qianpei)**, who arrived earlier this month – both with a cleft lip and palate. These two sweet, happy babies will need surgery soon to repair their lips. Each surgery will cost approximately **US\$1,200** – and we hope to raise this money now, in order to be prepared when it's time for their surgeries.

One of our children underwent intestinal surgery, and suffered complications and an extended hospital stay not too long ago. He has since recovered and joined his Forever Family, but we still need to pay the hospital **US\$2,200** for his surgery.

Please help us replenish our Medical Fund to meet these needs. Altogether, we need more than **US\$8,500** to help improve the lives of these precious kids. For more info, please email us at: info@chinaorphans.org.

A New Classmate Finds Her Puzzle Piece

"My first impression of Florence (Guo Sifeng) was that she was very introverted – a quiet and gentle little girl. When she first came to my class, due to the unfamiliar environment she didn't speak, and instead only shook or nodded her head in order to express herself. I made sure she knew that we all loved her, and that she could share her feelings and any needs with me. It's wonderful now to see the changes in Florence, and how every day when she comes to school she greets me first! She's very smart and accepting, and is even able to braid her own hair. Though she hasn't been in school for very long, Florence is already able to write the numbers 1-10 just like her classmates in our Level One and Two classes, and she recognizes colors very well. During class she's been working on making puzzles, and has no problem with putting together 100 pieces! Florence gets along very well with her classmates and at home, and is often found laughing and talking with the other kids. She's a happy child who's finding her place in the world." – Teacher Gao



Follow Your Heart

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 an M.D., PA, RN or NP 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. We're delighted to share that Dr. Jane Liu is expecting a child, and will be taking maternity leave to care for her growing family in July. This is great news, and we're delighted for Dr. Jane! However, this leaves us in need of help on our medical team – someone to provide care and treatment for our kids. Ideally, we're looking for loving, caring medical professionals to apply – and if you're bilingual (English & Chinese), that's even better! If you're interested, please contact us immediately at: naomi.preedin@chinaorphans.org.

Office Worker(s) – We need someone who can take on the following responsibilities: administrative tasks; guest relations duties; the organization of children's files and records; and communication with the Chinese business community. We're preferably looking for someone who's bilingual (Chinese and some English), someone who's able to communicate well, and has good organizational and management skills. This role may become permanent.

Greenhouse Staff – We have an immediate need in our greenhouse and gardens, for someone to tend the flowers and plants around campus. This will keep the campus beautiful, and will also supplement our children's and staff's diets with nutritious organic produce.



We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

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