



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

Heartbeat

September 2017



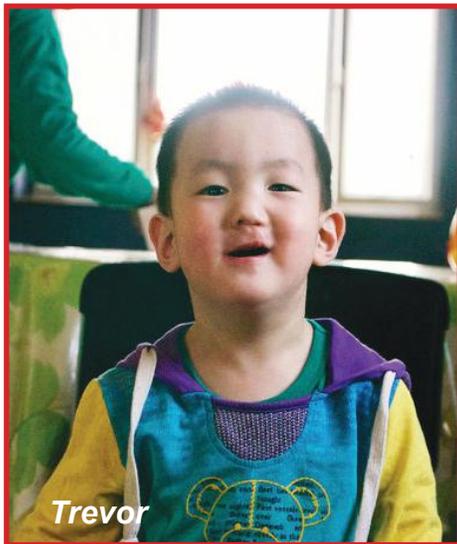
Good Things Come in Threes

We've watched **Trevor (Han Kangcheng)** grow for nearly three years, and prayed for this day to come – as we do with all our kids. He finally met his Forever Family, who are from Italy – joining them on July 24! Trevor has a new big sister, who loves him already.



Kai

Kai (Li Wei Ye) wasn't even a month old when he arrived at Shepherd's Field – now, at three-and-a-half, he's been united with a loving, new Forever Family. For the last year, he's been attending preschool, learning his ABCs and numbers, as well as his favorite activity – singing! Kai (now **Kailar**) loves to say hello to everyone he meets, and always makes fast friends, as he did here, with new visitors, staff and the other children. The **Schwartzenburgs** first met Kai just months after he arrived, and quickly fell in love with him. He joins two older sisters, two dogs and a cat, and we wish them all the best!



Trevor



Molly

Molly is a sweet, beautiful little girl who came to Shepherd's Field in January 2013, when she was just five years old. She's attended school, and has thrived within a curriculum specially designed for her. This week, Molly joined her new Mom, Dad and brother in Guangzhou, on their way to America. Molly's been very excited, which showed in her face when they all met. She's the second adopted child with special needs in the family, so they're a perfect fit for each other. We're very excited for Molly and her new life!

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



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Generous Donations Refresh Campus

Changes are happening on the Shepherd's Field campus this summer, thanks to a donation for new sod and an automatic sprinkler system in the center part of the campus. This not only brightens up the space, it also saves time – and our maintenance staff no longer needs to water by hand. We also received a donation to upgrade the playground's surface, which was sand – making it impossible for kids with wheelchairs and walkers to get out there and play. The new surface is rubberized plastic, which will allow all the kids to participate in the fun. Thank you!



Happy Birthday to Our Pre-school!

It's been a year since we started our five-and-under preschool class, so let's celebrate with some news! **Kai, Levi, Georgie, Isaac** and **Momo** have all been in our class since the beginning and are progressing phenomenally. They can speak in short sentences and ask plenty of questions, and are great at helping newer students learn the class routine. We're pleased to report that **Linda, Carol** and **Katy** all met their Forever Families earlier this year. **Quentin** and **Shea** began attending classes in early May and have acclimated to the group very well. In the past year, the kids have all learned dance, colors, numbers, manners, sharing and about friendship.



“When I arrived at Shepherd’s Field in the summer of 2016, I didn’t know what to expect. All I knew was that I’d be volunteering and serving children who had physical and/or mental disabilities. I was blessed to join the Therapy Team, which was an incredible experience, as we performed physical, occupational, speech, play and other kinds of therapy with the children. At the time, I was starting my senior year of college, and had planned to graduate early. I was a Psychology major with a minor in Chinese.

“After my summer at Shepherd’s Field, however, everything changed! I just fell in love with the children there, and learned so much about the different therapies they’re given – especially occupational therapy. I enjoyed helping the children learn simple, daily tasks that most people take for granted – things like buttoning a shirt, washing hands or putting on shoes.



“When I returned home, I followed my heart and took some extra courses in order to apply for graduate school. Just before coming to Shepherd’s Field this summer, I got the news that I was accepted into a Master’s of Occupational Therapy Program! Before last summer, I had never thought of this as a career option, but through my experiences at Shepherd’s Field, it became clear what I should do. And that is, to help children – whether in China or America – live their lives to the fullest, exploiting all the abilities God has given them. Thank you!” – Lilly Darmetko

Welcome, Gao Li!

This month our Therapy Team grew by one! We’re very pleased to welcome **Gao Li (高立)** to Shepherd’s Field as a Therapy Ayi – she previously worked in our children’s homes as a substitute Ayi. This prior experience in the houses has helped her make the transition, and settle into her new role in our program. To say that her patients like working with Gao Li is an understatement – the kids absolutely adore her! She brings a youthful energy and playfulness into all her sessions, while remaining focused on each child’s therapy goals. The entire staff is rejoicing, as we can now provide more therapy than ever to the kids. We’re very blessed to have Gao Li on our team, and can’t wait to watch her positive and determined attitude help change the lives of many, many children.



Other Summer News

Our annual Fourth of July Party began with a huge rainstorm, but it didn't dampen our spirits or spoil our day. By early afternoon, things cleared up and the kids, staff, interns, volunteers and guests all enjoyed a bunch of fun activities. We served 100 hotdogs and 75 hamburgers off our own barbecue, and a group of local volunteers made Chinese BBQ with their special grill, featuring delicious yangrouchuaner (skewered lamb), barbecued tofu, and chicken wings for everyone. There were plenty of healthy options, featuring greens freshly picked from our own organic gardens. We played games with the kids, but the real competition came later, with a corn hole tournament for the adults. Then at dusk, we fired up the fire pit and roasted marshmallows to make s'mores, followed by the grand finale. An amazing fireworks display illuminated the skies over Shepherd's Field, bringing forth lots of oohs and aahs from all of us, and warming our hearts.



We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

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